Safety of Women tourists

*475. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether single Women tourists, foreign or local, while travelling face difficulties and undesirable behaviour from citizens; and

(b) what steps Government are taking in projecting India as a safe and women friendly-destination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Providing safety and security to the tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments as "Police" and "Public order" are state subjects. Hence, no data in this regard is maintained centrally.

(b) In order to develop and promote India as a secure destination, the Ministry of Tourism has advised the State Governments/Union Territories for deployment of Tourist Police at all important tourist centres/destinations. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism has also requested all the States/ Union Territories to enact Tourist Trade Act so as to discourage unscrupulous elements in the industry. A Complaint Redressal System has been developed through which each specific complaint is followed up and taken to its logical conclusion. Ministry of Tourism has also launched a Social Awareness Campaign titled, "Atithi Devo Bhavah", which targets the general public as a whole, while focusing mainly on the stakeholders of the tourist industry. The main components of the campaign are training and orientation of the taxi drivers, guides, immigration officers, tourist police and other personnel directly interacting with the tourists while simultaneously creating a brand equity for the trained persons.

Review of Indian Penal Code

*476. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairperson of National Commission for Women (NCW) has called for a review of Indian Penal Code to secure betterment of lot of women;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NCW had suggestions for amendment

of the code and propose to submit their recommendations to Government;

(c) if so, whether they have since submitted their recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No recommendation from National Commission for Women has been received.

Release of compensation to farmers of Jammu and Kashmir

*477. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 203 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd February, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the released amount of compensation has since been distributed to the affected persons; and

(b) by when the total compensation sanctioned is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Out of Rs. 72,29,26,646/- placed at the disposal of concerned Deputy Commissioners (D.C.), a sum of Rs,. 45,29,79,325/- has been disbursed by DCs to the affected persons as on date.

(b) Out of Rs. 75,74,55,358/- sanctioned to the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir as crop/rental compensation for occupation of lands in connection with Operation Parakram, Rs. 72,29,26,646/- has already been released to the Deputy Commissioners. A sum of Rs. 3,17,74,995/-, though sanctioned, was not found admissible later on detailed scrutiny and hence not released. The remaining sum of Rs. 27,53,717/- could not be released earlier due to non verification of sites. The release of said amount is now under process.

Sale of obsolete armaments and equipments as scrap

*478. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Army has proposed to put up for sale, as scrap, a massive inventory of its obsolete armaments and equipments, including the 800 Vijayanta tanks, hundreds of guns and artillery pieces; and